

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

RILEY H. ALLEN

EDITOR

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1912

I have come to see that cleverness, success, attainment, count for little; that goodness or "character" is the important factor in life.—G. Romanes.

HOMESTEADING FUNDAMENTALS

Secretary Fisher heard enough division of opinion among the planters of Kauai on his trip yesterday to justify him in the question of whether homesteading in Hawaii has as yet been given a trial from the homesteading rather than from the planters' standpoint.

In other words, he is seeking to find out whether the facts of homesteading in the past are a compelling argument against extension of the present policy in the future. He is also seeking to find out whether the homesteader on cane lands can be made independent of plantation interests and yet guaranteed a market for his cane. And these are questions that will recur again and again during the remainder of his island tours.

On Kauai the problem of homesteading came down to fundamentals perhaps more closely than at any previous time during Mr. Fisher's investigation. That problem, as Mr. Fisher's questions at Lihue would indicate, is as to the wisdom of a policy of cutting up the present government cane lands into units of such size that a homesteader can secure upon them an independent living for himself and his family, with enough profit to make the plan attractive to a population that will be of permanent benefit to the territory. There are 35,000 acres of cane lands, and if homesteads must be of 160 acres each or thereabouts, as advocated by one plantation manager, it can readily be seen that the 35,000 acres will not go far.

THE OPPOSITION TO HOOGS

The STAR-BULLETIN's opposition to W. H. Hoogs for supervisor is not based on any personal fight in any precinct and the statement made on behalf of Hoogs in the morning paper that he is to be "knifed" because he happens to have incurred the personal enmity of W. R. Farrington is not the truth.

This paper has gone on record as opposing Hoogs because Hoogs has neither the confidence nor the support of the responsible business community and because it believes that the presence of Hoogs on the Republican ticket will only be secured at the sacrifice of better candidates—candidates who will give the ticket elements of strength that Hoogs cannot. It is not a fight of personalities; it is not a fight of political enmity; it is a fight for a ticket that Honolulu can accept, that Honolulu will accept, and that will have a reasonably sure chance of winning in this campaign.

As to the statement that the STAR-BULLETIN's editorial announcement of opposition to Hoogs is the result of the Fourth precinct situation, that is the creation of Hoogs' fancy. Republican leaders were told three days ago that this paper could not and would not support Hoogs, and the political events since then have only gone to show that its opposition is entirely justified.

ENDING PERU'S SCANDAL

Some time ago comment was made in this paper upon the revelations of astounding atrocities in the Putumayo rubber regions of Peru, and it was noted at that time that the press not only of this country but of Europe and other countries had taken the matter up with much vigor. Now it is gratifying to know that the public press has forced the Peruvian government to take steps toward ending the reign of cruelty that had been practiced upon Indian rubber-gatherers by foreign companies. From Lima comes the word that the ministry of foreign affairs has issued a statement to the press containing the information that the Peruvian government has completed the establishment of an adequate constabulary force to police the Putumayo region, under the command of a special commissioner who is at the orders of the prefecture of Loreto and in constant touch with those authorities. The reference to the appointment of the Peruvian consul-general in Manaoas to head a special committee of investigation is also received with favorable comment, as is the mention of the two commissions organized in Lima and Iquitos for the purpose of studying the needs of the region as concerns reform of political, administrative and judicial conditions. For the rest, the official statement merely contains a

brief review of diplomatic exchanges with Great Britain and subsequent measures taken for the apprehension of the fugitive culprits. It is remarked that the tone of the communique is a perfectly serene and assured one, and the impression is that as conditions are now in the Putumayo region Peru need not fear further investigations.

It is recalled that advices that had reached Lima last spring from Iquitos mentioned the fact that the point commanding access to the rubber concession of the Peruvian Amazon company, the port of Union, situated at the confluence of the Igara-Parana and the Cara-Parana, has had its garrison reinforced with men and machine guns, as had also that of Yubinetu, which at that time was the most advanced military outpost of Peru in the Putumayo region. While the strengthening of various garrisons in the upper Amazon was considered necessary owing to the road-building activities of the Colombians, both on the upper Putumayo and Caqueta, it is expected that the presence of the troops will materially aid in the humanitarian efforts of the commissions.

FEDERAL AID FOR SCHOOLS

With the Republican territorial platform turning its attention to securing federal funds for school advancement here, the controversy that has arisen on the mainland over the Page bill is of considerable local interest. The Christian Science Monitor gives a clear view of the situation and draws some sound conclusions in the following editorial:

Debate of the Page bill which enlists the nation and its treasury in cooperative effort with states in promoting education in agriculture, trades, home-economics and in maintenance of extension departments of state universities, agricultural colleges and similar institutions, has led to emergence of the old bogey, "states' rights." "The nation never has interfered with education. States and communities have managed it fairly well so far. There is great peril in centralizing so much power in Washington." So the argument runs, and strange to say the chief critic is a Harvard graduate, a son of Massachusetts, and the man who not many years ago was sponsor for a proposed law dealing with civil rights that carried federal control over the states to the limit.

No doubt it is well that there should be adequate debate of the Page bill in the light not only of the expert testimony given for and against it by educators but also of the advice of lawmakers, part of whose duty is to keep an eye on the nation's purse. To spend \$15,000,000 a year of course does not seem much to a billion-dollar Congress and country; and in few ways can taxpayers' money be more rewardingly invested than in education of youth.

After all is said, the fact remains that the United States now has competitors in the field of manufacturing, commerce, diplomacy and military resources that allow no abstractions about balanced governmental authority as between localities, states and nation to prevent any child from getting the sort of training to which his national value as an asset entitles him. If the United States is to hold its own with some of its rivals, it must hereafter look upon education as much less of a provincial and very much more of a national affair than has been the case hitherto.

If this bill were planned to lodge exclusive authority at Washington and to take away power from the states, it would be easier to understand such criticism as it is meeting. It is supplementary, not substitutionary, in its purport; and it aims to succor weaker commonwealths and in no way to supplant present agencies in rich states that long have stood for democracy in education.

Secretary Fisher can hardly find reason for any belief that there is either a conspiracy of silence or a conspiracy of unanimity here, after a glance at the testimony of, say, A. W. Carter, L. Tenney Peck, Richard Ivers, George R. Carter, E. E. Paxton, A. Lewis, Jr., and J. A. Kennedy.

The question has been asked of this paper if it will support Mr. Charles G. Bartlett as a candidate for supervisor. The STAR-BULLETIN has this to say, that there may be no misunderstanding, that it will not support the election of any man who is directly connected with the liquor business.

Oscar Cox, chairman of the Republican county convention, rang the bell of truth when he told the convention this morning that the Republicans of Honolulu must name candidates for whom no excuses need be made, if they hope to beat Democracy this fall.

Secretary Fisher's repudiation of a statement published this morning that a certain homestead plan presented to him here had been approved by him, was as prompt as it was emphatic.

Gen. Homer Lea ought to lend his book, "The Valor of Ignorance" to the man who told Orozco to go across the border and lick the United States.

LETTERS ON TIMELY TOPICS

A VIEW OF HOMESTEADING.

Editor Star-Bulletin:—It is a foregone conclusion that the public lands now in cane cannot be homesteaded and this is not due to the greed of the planters, or of the larger interests so much as to the impracticability of the scheme.

It must be remembered that it has taken over fifty years of study and experiment to bring the mills and plantations up to the present high state of efficiency, and how, I would like to ask, can men with small holdings, and with little, or no knowledge of this industry hope to compete with such men and make a success of their undertaking?

It must also be remembered that with all the systematic, economic and scientific methods now in use, many of the plantations have taken over twenty years to get out of debt, and this without any development to speak of or enlargement of the plantation, or plant.

There are also many plantations that are not out of debt at the present time and probably some of them never will become a success.

This is an unfortunate state of affairs so far as the homesteading of cane land goes, but it is true, unless they can get better terms than they have so far been unable to do, and even then it would be doubtful if they could succeed particularly when we consider the many difficulties of planting, harvesting, cultivation, irrigation, and scientific fertilization of the sugar cane.

Next to homesteading, and the private ownership of land comes cooperation, and there seems no reason why the planters cannot formulate a plan of cooperation whereby the laborers without owning a share of stock, or having a word to say in the management, could participate in the profits or dividends of the plantation.

And as this method can be adopted without loss to the share holders, there seems no reason for delay in putting it into operation.

It can be done, in my opinion, without any loss to the plantation, because when the men find that the amount of money that they receive does not depend so much upon the time they work as upon the amount of work that they do, they will naturally take more interest in this work.

As a matter of fact this method, or what is called giving a bonus is in practice already on some of the plantations, and with good results, and there seems no reason why it should not be adopted on all of the plantations.

There has also been another plan proposed, and that is to pay a certain amount of money to parents who have children under fourteen years of age, say \$2 for each child. This is a good idea and it has already been tried and proved a success in the case of European families and should be extended to the American laborers' families.

I am a believer in small farming. Through my own experience, along this line, has been most disastrous, having lost about everything I put into the undertaking.

But this was before the advent of the pineapple and, when the coffee was supposed to be the ideal crop.

The failure of the coffee industry was due mainly to the low price of coffee, and partly to inexperience, high transportation charges, and poor roads. It has been found that only those places that are highly favored by climate, soil, and location have been able to succeed, and it has been a constant struggle for even them.

To bring into use all of the lands of the coffee belt, and which is something very much to be desired, a duty on coffee is required and it is earnestly hoped that something will be done about securing it.

The coffee industry is an ideal occupation, is not difficult to learn and it is well suited to the American farmer.

A coffee plantation with its symmetrical and beautiful trees is something worth seeing and when the berries are ripe forms one of the most beautiful sights in the world.

Now, if the coffee industry could be made a success here, it would solve the problem of homesteading more than anything I know of, for most of the unoccupied lands now available are in the coffee belt, and as that is necessary to do to make it a success is to put a duty on this berry.

It is the opinion of the writer that a part of the thirty-five thousand acres of the public lands now in cane should be set aside for homesteading in case it could be used for other purposes than growing cane. And most people would like to see it all set aside for that purpose were it not for the almost certain fact that it would all eventually fall into the hands of the planters.

In regard to renting these lands, it is the opinion of a great many persons that in place of paying rent for them, a certain part of the crop, say five per cent of it, should be given to the government.

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This would bring in a revenue of about a million dollars a year, in place of about one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars a. is now the case.

As to the land laws, it is the opinion that the homestead laws of New Zealand could be used here with success. It is also the consensus of opinion that the native Hawaiian homesteader's interest should be safeguarded, so that they cannot be deprived of their land whether by debt, foreclosure or by sale.

Yours very truly,
GEO. OSBORNE.

PERSONALITIES

MRS. F. E. KING of Cottage Grove has written from New York State that she will return to Honolulu about the first part of November. Mrs. King has been on an extended tour of the mainland.

RIVES ESTATE CLAIM PURCHASED FOR \$1,000

C. M. Cooke Estate, Ltd., has bought for \$1,000 the claim of Mrs. Elizabeth Kekaaniau Pratt and Mrs. Theresa Owana Belliveau to an undivided one-third interest in a parcel of land situated between the Occidental hotel and the building of the Hawaiian Electric Company on King street. The claim of the grantors was through heirship at law to the estate of the late George P. Rives, who died intestate on May 15, 1858. Rives figured prominently in the history of his times here, as the consular representative of France. Mrs. Pratt is the daughter of his half-sister, and Mrs. Belliveau is her niece.

\$69,000 OF BOND SALES RECORDED

A tremendous slam in Hilo Extension six per cent bonds is the feature of today's stock sheet, the total amount being \$66,000 and \$56,000 of it making an advance of a quarter to 96. These bonds were sold in recess, as well as \$1000 Natomas sixes at 94. A. J. Campbell negotiated one block of \$50,000. On the board Oia sixes sold unchanged at 97.50 for two lots of \$1000 each. The total of bond sales on the sheet is \$69,000. Other recess sales were 105 and 5 shares of Hilo Railroad common, advanced three-eighths to 8.15.

On the board, besides the Oia bonds, sales were as follows: Oahu Sugar Co., 5 at 27.50; Hawaiian Pineapple Co., 5 at 44; Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Co., 10 at 43.25; Pala Plantation Co., 5 at 210, a drop of five points; Ewa Plantation Co., 10, 10, 20 and 10 at \$1.50. The only change is in Pala.

MYRTLES EXTEND CORDIAL WELCOME

Any Myrtle sympathizer, or friend of a member, whose name was overlooked when the list of club invitations for Regatta Day was compiled, can get his ribbon by applying to Tom King at the California Feed Co. "There will be no admission to the Myrtle boathouse except by badge," said Mr. King; "but, at the same time, we want to make sure that all the Myrtle friends have been included. The list is naturally a long one, and there is a chance that someone who would like to be with us on Regatta Day has not received an invitation. I will be more than glad to see that one is sent on proper application."

PLAN TO WALK AROUND ISLAND BY MOONLIGHT

Invitations have been issued for a moonlight tramping party around the island, to be held on Saturday, September 28. The bikers are to start from Nuuanu car line to the Pall, thence to Waimanalo, around Mokapu to Koko Head, where they hit the home stretch.

G. A. R. GALLANTRY DELAYED BANQUET

DENVER, Colo., Sept. 4.—The gallantry of Grand Army veterans, it developed today, delayed for fifteen minutes a banquet last night in honor of Commander-in-Chief H. M. Thimble and other Grand Army officers, who stopped in Denver en route to the national encampment in Los Angeles. The banquet was scheduled for 7 o'clock. At 6:23 an invitation was sent Miss Hilda Smith.

"No girl can dress in thirty-seven minutes," pouted Miss Smith, the complaint being communicated to the veterans.

"Please send word by messenger the exact number of minutes you will need," was their reply.

"Fifty-two minutes" came from Miss Smith, who was true to her word and the banquet started at 7:15. At the conclusion of the banquet the veterans left on a special train for Salt Lake.

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